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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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FL. 257

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

OCTOBER, 1964

1964 Employment Peak Highest of Record

Employment Stays High—September employment in Montana's non-farm industries was highest of record for that month. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 184,400 wage earners received paychecks from the state's industrial employers at mid-September. Employment, although down seasonally by 700 from August payrolls was still 2,800 above September of 1963. Evidence that August was the peak employment month this year is seen in the final employment figure for that month which reveals that non-farm employment reached 185,100 at that time. This was the highest non-farm employment total ever achieved in Montana. It was 20,600 above the seasonal employment low point of last February.

Seasonal Changes Normal—The expected seasonal decline common to the Montana labor market at this time of the year was starting to show but failed to dim the overall employment picture. Seasonal aspects of the current employment estimates find the largest numerical change in trade establishments. The end of the tourist season and closure of facilities at national parks and other resort areas were chiefly responsible for reducing employment at trade firms by 600 from August payrolls. The same factors were mostly responsible for a drop of 300 in

employment at service establishments, leaving employment in this field at the same level as last year.

Construction Still Active—Contract construction remained an active force on the statewide labor market scene with nearly 15,000 employed, after a drop of 500 from August. Completion of some small building contracts and a few highway projects were mainly responsible for the decline. Employment at the Columbia Falls aluminum plant expansion project exceeded the 700 mark with shortages of skilled craftsmen at times. After some slight decline, employment at the Yellowtail Dam held near 1,200. New schools, college dormitories, shopping centers, oil refinery expansion, highway projects, and other building were active in other areas of the state.

Upswing In Lumbering—There was a steady pace of activity in timbered areas of the state during September. Employment in lumber manufacturing increased by 200 from August and was 500 higher than the September, 1963 total. Shortages of skilled timber fallers, tongmen, and heavy equipment operators persisted in most areas throughout the month. Mill operators were stockpiling logs to permit operations throughout the winter months and the regular spring break-up period when logging operations are reduced

substantially by bad weather and impassable roads.

Employment in other manufacturing groups showed little change from August employment totals with the exception of food processing which increased by 200. This was due chiefly to the start of sugar beet refining in late September.

Mixed Trends In Government—There were 1,000 fewer federal government employees in September than in August. This normal season decline reflects the windup of summer work in national parks, irrigation services, forest service and other facilities. Employment at the state and local levels of government increased by 1,400 from August. Most of this increment is attributed to the start of the new school term with resultant hiring of new teachers, school bus drivers, custodians, and school lunch program cooks.

Farm Front Changes—Agricultural employment in Montana dropped by 6,600 from August to a September total of 35,200 as major grain harvests were completed. After completion of these activities, many of the workers went on to jobs in the sugar beet and potato fields. The Christmas tree harvest is now underway in the northwestern section of the state. Cutting, sorting, grading, and shipping of trees plus manufacture of decorative rope and wreaths will keep nearly 1,000 workers busy until early December.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Aug. 1964	July 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug. 1964	July 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug. 1964	July 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug. 1964	July 1964	Aug. 1963	Aug. 1964	July 1964	Aug. 1963
All Manufacturing.....	4.9	4.7	5.7	4.3	3.7	4.5	5.3	4.3	6.3	3.1	2.2	3.8	.7	1.2	1.6
Durable Goods.....	5.2	4.4	6.7	4.4	3.6	5.4	6.1	4.7	7.4	3.6	2.4	5.0	.8	1.0	1.4
Primary Metal.....	4.8	4.7	5.4	3.0	2.0	.9	7.2	5.7	6.5	2.6	1.3	1.2	.1	2.0	4.1
Nondurable Goods.....	4.5	5.2	3.7	4.0	4.1	2.6	3.7	3.7	3.9	2.2	1.6	1.4	.7	1.7	1.8
All Mining.....	8.7	6.5	8.8	5.2	3.9	5.1	7.0	8.2	8.4	4.2	3.5	5.6	1.0	1.9	.9
Metal Mining.....	7.3	7.0	7.6	2.6	3.6	3.3	6.2	6.6	6.9	3.4	3.4	4.8	.5	.1	.7

Along the Hiring Line —

Field Summary September 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(189 jobseekers, 106 new, 111 men, 78 women). Labor market directions keeping active in most industry groups. Intermittent hiring at the smelter throughout the month. Section of interstate highway completed with workers moving on to similar work in other areas. Main street business remains good. Most farm labor demand for potato harvest.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,778 jobseekers, 738 new, 1,068 men, 710 women). More employment expansion in construction, trade, and agriculture highlighted September labor demand. Peak employment levels being maintained on most building and highway projects. New work includes \$2.4 million college dormitory. Main street business holds to good volume but with some declines in service industries segments. Sugar beet harvest and refining operations on good schedule. Shortages of farm truck and tractor drivers noted.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(170 jobseekers, 295 new, 39 men, 131 women). Employment peaked in all industry groups during September except manufacturing where a slight decline occurred. Good trends should hold in most groups next 30 days. Shortage of timber fallers expected to continue. Trade and service received boost with return of 5,000 college students. Potato harvest main farm activity.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(732 jobseekers, 298 new, 395 men, 337 women). Job hires in mining, smelting, service industries, and construction dominated September labor activity. Building and road construction reached peak levels. More hiring noted at insurance and finance firms.

CUT BANK—(138 jobseekers, 32 new, 88 men, 50 women). Federal projects including road construction, home building, and flood clean up work provided most September job orders. Main street business at good seasonal levels. Transient labor eased labor demand for harvest operations.

DILLON—(52 jobseekers, 41 new, 27 men, 25 women). Agriculture and construction at top of September hiring agenda. Shortage of farm and ranch hands delayed some harvest activities for about 3 weeks. Labor supply and demand now in balance. Main street trends fairly active.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(92 jobseekers, 86 new, 19 men, 73 women). Employment at local and

Civilian Work Force

Total Employment

Total Non-agricultural Employment

(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)

Total Agricultural Employment

Labor Management Disputes

Total Unemployment

Percent Unemployed

U. S. Unemployment Rate

*Less Than 50

air base construction projects totals 250. A slight decline noted in main street business from September 1963 due to less construction activity this year. Fall farm hiring stays brisk.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(87 jobseekers, 41 new, 52 men, 35 women). Labor trends active in both industry and farm. Building construction at good force but road projects nearing completion released 100 workers; most went on to jobs in other areas. Some upturn noted in oil oriented activities. Sugar beet harvest to be completed late October.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,030 jobseekers, 536 new, 666 men, 364 women). Heavy demand for trade industry workers occurred during September. Excellent farm crops spurred demand for goods and services. Construction employment at peak and will remain at high levels until curbed by bad weather. Replacement hiring at smelter continued throughout the month. Farm labor demand at good pace.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(84 jobseekers, 65 new, 42 men, 42 women). Unemployment dropped by 33% from last year as good employment trends prevailed in most industry groups. Building and road construction active. Logging and sawmill operations steady with some worker shortages. Transient workers helped relieve shortage of harvest hands in potato and sugar beet fields.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(96 jobseekers, 56 new, 55 men, 41 women). Three weeks of wet weather temporarily curtailed construction and other outdoor work during September. Construction work down considerably from last year. One major construction firm closed. Trade and service holds at fairly good seasonal levels. Farm labor demand exceeds last year.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(339 job-

seekers, 234 new, 162 men, 177 women). Steady labor demand maintained in most industry groups during September. Worker shortages developed in stenographic, sales, and lumber industry occupations. Over \$5 million in construction work in progress with peak employment on most. Trade industries show good upswing from last year. Farm labor supply and demand in balance except for ranch cooks.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(511 jobseekers, 268 new, 285 men, 226 women). Industry job hiring registered slight decline from August but still was well above September 1963. Construction force at aluminum plant expansion now totals 700, up 200 from August. Federal projects active in rebuilding of roads, bridges, trails, after June flood. Logging continues active but several sawmills closed for several weeks for overhaul and repairs.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(81 jobseekers, 65 new, 48 men, 33 women). Worker demand starting to diminish with completion of harvest activities. Industry hiring fails to reach last week when substantial construction program was in progress. Only one major project active at present compared with 8 a year ago.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(104 jobseekers, 74 new, 45 men, 59 women). Building and highway construction continues in good force. Lumber industry showed mixed trends with surplus of sawmill workers but shortage of timber fallers. Trade and service fairly active with some shortages of cooks and waitresses. Some railroad hires noted as replacements for students returning to school.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(156 jobseekers, 99 new, 52 men, 104 women). Labor demand starting to level off in most industry segments but remains on par with last year. Fewer job openings

	Sept. 64	Aug. 64	Sept. 63	Aug. 64 to Sept. 64	Sept. 63 to Sept. 64
Civilian Work Force	257.6	266.6	258.6	—9.0	—1.0
Total Employment	250.8	258.4	251.0	—7.6	—2.2
Total Non-agricultural Employment	215.6	216.6	213.1	—1.0	2.5
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	184.4	185.1	181.6	—7.7	2.8
Total Agricultural Employment	35.2	41.8	37.9	—6.6	—2.7
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	*	0	.1
Total Unemployment	6.6	8.0	7.5	—1.4	—9.9
Percent Unemployed	2.6	3.0	2.9	-----	-----
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.8	4.8	-----	-----

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.3	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	165.3	164.5	164.6	169.8	174.4	182.9	184.3	185.1	184.4*				

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary September 1

noted in trade and service industries. Some upswing should occur during November with opening of several new additions to shopping center. Farm labor demand quite active.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(731 jobseekers, 517 new, 436 men, 295 women). Demand for woods and mill workers dominated September labor demand. Constant shortages of timber fallers, cat operators, and mill hands existed. Trade and service volume increased with return of college students. Some farm worker shortages expected as sugar beet harvest advances.

POLSON—(101 jobseekers, 45 new, 76 men, 25 women). Employment remains steady in most industry groups but with very little new hiring. Construction mostly in home building with no major projects evident. Main street labor demand quiet. Harvest of Christmas trees, potatoes, sugar beets, and apples will require workers throughout October.

SHELBY—(46 jobseekers, 66 new, 30 men, 16 women). Steady job hires in trade industries during September. Shortages of cooks and waitresses in outlying towns. Several new building projects began during the month. Harvest of farm crops completed but labor demand good.

SIDNEY—(74 jobseekers, 59 new, 37 men, 37 women). Labor demand trends holding well above seasonal levels. Up-swing noted in oil exploration with 3 crews active in the county at present. Trade and service firms required more workers. Construction below last year. Staffing of sugar beet refinery required less workers this year due to placement renovation.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(47 jobseekers, 34 new, 31 men, 16 women). September job hiring on a steady basis in most industry groups. Opening of new Hot Springs nursing home provided employment for 14 nurses aides. More hires noted in construction, logging, and forest service work. Farm labor demand quiet.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(60 jobseekers, 45 new, 41 men, 19 women). More hiring occurred in construction and oil field activities during September. Five oil wells now drilling in the county. Some seasonal employment decline noted in main street establishments including cafes, motels, service stations, and farm implement firms. Farm labor demand at a steady pace.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Sept. 1964 (2)	Aug. 1964 (3)	Sept. 1963	Aug. '64 to Sept. '64	Sept. '63 Against Sept. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	184,400	185,100	181,600	-700	2,800
Manufacturing	23,500	23,100	22,900	400	600
Durable goods	15,300	15,100	14,700	200	600
Lumber and timber products	10,100	9,900	9,600	200	500
Primary metals	3,300	3,300	3,100	00	200
Other (4)	1,900	1,900	2,000	00	100
Nondurable goods	8,200	8,000	8,200	200	00
Food and kindred products	4,600	4,400	4,700	200	100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,700	1,600	-100	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	800	700	700	100	100
Mining	7,700	7,600	6,800	100	900
Metal mining	5,100	5,100	3,900	00	1,200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,600	1,500	1,900	100	300
Contract Construction	14,900	15,400	16,100	-500	-1,200
Contractors, building construction	4,300	4,400	4,800	-100	500
Contractors, other than building	5,600	5,800	6,100	-200	500
Contractors, special trade	5,000	5,200	5,200	-200	200
Transportation and utilities	18,300	18,400	18,500	-100	200
Interstate railroads	8,000	8,100	8,200	-100	200
Transportation except railroads	4,200	4,200	4,300	00	100
Utilities including communication	6,100	6,100	6,000	00	100
Trade	42,600	43,200	41,700	-600	900
Wholesale trade	9,000	9,000	8,800	00	200
Retail trade	33,600	34,200	32,900	-600	700
General merchandise and apparel	6,600	6,500	6,100	100	500
Food stores	4,700	4,600	4,900	100	200
Eating and drinking establishments	9,400	10,100	9,000	-700	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,500	6,600	6,700	-100	200
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,400	6,400	6,200	00	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,900	6,900	-100	100
Services and miscellaneous	25,400	25,700	25,400	-300	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,500	4,900	4,600	-400	100
Personal services	2,200	2,200	2,100	00	100
Other (6)	18,700	18,600	18,700	100	00
Government	45,200	44,800	43,300	400	1,900
Federal	12,400	13,400	12,600	-1,000	200
State and local	32,800	31,400	30,700	1,400	2,100
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,500	23,700	23,600	-200	100
Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,100	00	300
Contract construction	2,300	2,300	3,000	00	700
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,100	6,200	5,800	-100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,900	4,000	4,100	-100	200
Government	4,300	4,300	4,100	00	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,500	24,300	24,000	200	500
Manufacturing	3,000	2,800	3,000	200	00
Contract construction	1,800	1,800	1,700	00	100
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,500	2,600	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,600	7,600	7,400	00	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,500	4,500	4,200	00	300
Government	3,700	3,700	3,700	00	00

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 784 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,211 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER 1964 AND SEPTEMBER 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Sept. 1964		Sept. 1963		Sept. 1964		Sept. 1963		Sept. 1964				Sept. 1963				Wk. 10-2	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	106	17	145	24	189	21	275	26	87	115	202	41	127	54	181	54	95	153
Billings	738	110	878	166	1,778	256	1,786	333	748	645	1,393	239	708	964	1,672	264	411	385
Bozeman	295	33	239	41	170	7	216	23	245	105	350	66	248	101	349	56	38	64
Butte	298	32	409	69	732	92	858	120	124	13	137	29	164	1	165	42	289	306
Cut Bank	32	2	60	15	138	26	152	33	100	87	187	97	159	72	231	88	39	37
Dillon	41	10	67	23	52	7	52	5	41	110	151	44	63	110	173	76	25	17
Glasgow	86	7	62	6	32	1	142	7	95	41	136	34	141	57	198	56	51	30
Glendive	41	3	75	9	87	6	98	9	49	41	90	8	58	69	127	21	13	18
Great Falls	536	66	724	113	1,030	155	1,722	324	416	190	606	144	257	193	450	118	395	674
Hamilton	65	7	68	9	84	7	127	20	55	132	187	9	86	116	202	20	32	57
Havre	56	6	82	10	96	18	120	29	61	134	195	43	115	90	205	67	60	57
Helena	234	22	224	31	339	45	336	61	178	73	251	75	237	64	301	83	117	152
Kalispell	268	38	333	58	511	67	582	93	347	43	390	73	225	45	270	64	179	231
Lewistown	65	8	103	17	81	9	136	22	66	122	188	30	99	63	162	42	46	64
Livingston	74	7	52	5	104	11	129	20	120	23	143	26	135	17	152	38	48	48
Miles City	99	6	114	7	156	8	167	12	95	45	140	25	97	27	124	11	28	43
Missoula	517	66	512	70	731	109	1,006	159	444	58	502	111	403	88	491	142	185	175
Polson	45	3	52	10	101	16	157	35	28	5	33	8	93	7	100	19	52	58
Shelby	66	28	65	16	46	10	96	20	56	62	118	49	67	41	108	21	14	22
Sidney	59	6	76	10	74	2	60	6	96	93	189	41	125	83	208	54	7	20
Thomp. Falls	34	4	34	12	47	10	53	8	64	2	66	11	42		42	13	20	33
Wolf Point	45	6	63	26	60	15	67	13	45	71	116	14	27	69	96	27	34	30
TOTALS	3,800	487	4,437	747	6,698	898	8,335	1,378	3,560	2,210	5,770	1,217	3,676	2,331	6,007	1,376	2,178	2,674

*Includes 160 claims of the Fed. UC Program 174 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. (1) 1964	Aug. (2) 1964	Sept. 1963	Sept. (1) 1964	Aug. (2) 1964	Sept. 1963	Sept. (1) 1964	Aug. (2) 1964	Sept. 1963
All Manufacturing	112.88	111.91	107.05	40.9	40.4	39.5	2.76	2.77	2.71
Durable Goods	109.75	110.16	107.87	40.8	40.8	40.4	2.69	2.70	2.67
Primary Metals	122.69	115.18	109.35	42.6	40.7	40.5	2.88	2.83	2.70
Nondurable Goods	118.90	116.42	105.46	41.0	39.6	37.8	2.90	2.94	2.79
Food and Kindred Products	110.69	106.68	86.10	44.1	42.0	37.6	2.51	2.54	2.29
All Mining	119.02	117.12	117.71	39.3	38.4	41.3	3.03	3.05	2.85
Metal Mining	111.53	111.53	115.25	37.3	37.3	39.2	2.99	2.99	2.94
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	107.53	107.53	103.10	39.1	39.1	39.2	2.75	2.75	2.63

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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